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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/041,038	12/28/2001	Dmitri E. Nikonov	42390P13380	1947

7590

09/09/2003

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EXAMINER

KIM, ELLEN E

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2874

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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The United States Patent and Trademark Office has changed certain mailing addresses!

Effective May 1, 2003

Use the address provided in this flyer after May 1, 2003 for any correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in patent-related matters to organizations reporting to the Commissioner for Patents.

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Also effective May 1, 2003, the USPTO is changing the special Box designations for **Patents and Trademarks** to corresponding Mail Stop designations (e.g., "Box 4" will now be "Mail Stop 4").

For further information, see *Correspondence with the United States Patent and Trademark Office*, 68 *Fed. Reg.* 14332 (March 25, 2003). A copy of the *Federal Register* notice is available on the USPTO's web site at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/menu/current.html#register>.

A listing of specific USPTO mailing addresses (See Patents – specific) will be available on the USPTO's web site on April 15, 2003 at <http://www.uspto.gov/main/contacts.htm>

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Questions regarding the content of this flyer should be directed to the Inventor Assistance Center at (703) 308-4357 or toll-free at 1-800-786-9199.

**NOTIFICATION OF REQUESTED NEW FORMAT FOR AMENDMENTS AND/OR RESPONSES FILED
IN ART UNITS 1634, 2827, AND 2834**

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is currently conducting a prototype of electronic application processing and examination in **Art Units 1634, 2827, and 2834**. To facilitate the prototype, the following changes in format for Amendments and/or Responses filed in those Art Units are requested.

Requested Format of Amendments and Responses during the prototype.

Each section of an Amendment and/or Response (e.g., Claim Amendments, Specification Amendments, Remarks) should begin on a separate sheet to facilitate separate indexing and scanning of the document. *For example*, in an Amendment containing a.) introductory comments, b.) amendments to the claims, c.) amendments to the specification, and d.) remarks, each of these sections should begin on a separate sheet. **For each amendment filed in Art Units 1634, 2827, and 2834, the requirement to provide two sets of claims (a clean version and a marked up version), as set forth in 37 CFR 1.121(c), will be waived where the following format is employed.**

Each amendment that includes a change to an existing claim, or submission of a new claim shall be made by submitting a **summary document with the status of all claims and the text of all pending claims as follows:**

- (1) The status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled or withdrawn claims, must be summarized in each amendment document. Status is indicated by a parenthetical expression following the claim number (e.g. (original), (currently amended), (previously amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), or (new)). The text of all pending claims must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled and withdrawn claims may be indicated by only the claim number and status.
- (2) All claims being currently amended must be submitted with markings to indicate the changes that have been made. The changes in any amended claim may be shown by strikethrough (for deleted matter) or underlining (for added matter), or by any equivalent marking system.
- (3) The text of pending claims not being amended must be presented in each amendment document in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim presented in clean version will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version.
- (4) A claim may be canceled by merely providing an instruction to cancel. Any claims added by amendment must be indicated as (new).
- (5) All of the claims in each amendment paper must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled or withdrawn claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g. Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

Amendments to the specification are performed in the conventional manner (37 CFR 1.121(b)).

Patent Copies

Additionally, applicants and practitioners will no longer be required to provide copies of U.S. Patents and Published U.S. Patent Applications cited in any Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) submitted to the USPTO during the prototype and in applications assigned to the three art units. It is requested that eIDSs be used to file all IDS papers for applications before the prototype Art Units. Similarly, during the prototype, copies of U.S. Patents and Published U.S. Patent Applications cited by an examiner during prosecution of an application will not be provided to applicants in Office actions from these Art Units. These documents are available from the USPTO web site, www.uspto.gov for free download. Cited foreign patents and published applications and non-patent literature will be mailed by conventional processing.

The above requested new format and procedures are applicable during the prototype only to applications assigned to Art Units 1634, 2827, and 2834. Any questions regarding these requirements may be directed to image.processing@uspto.gov or one of the Supervisory Patent Examiners of these Art Units 1634 – Gary.Jones@uspto.gov; 2827 – Dave.Talbott@uspto.gov or 2834 – Nestor.Ramirez@uspto.gov.

REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE: 37 CFR 1.121 CHANGED COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY - Effective Date: July 30, 2003

All amendments filed on or after the effective date noted above must comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121. See Final Rule: **Changes To Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records** (68 Fed. Reg. 38611 (June 30, 2003)), posted on the Office's website at: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/> with related information. The amendment practice set forth in revised 37 CFR 1.121, and described below, replaces the voluntary revised amendment format available to applicants since February 2003. **NOTE: STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121 IS REQUIRED AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE (July 30, 2003).** The Office will notify applicants of amendments that are not accepted because they do not comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121 via a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. See MPEP 714.03 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003). The non-compliant section(s) will have to be corrected and the entire corrected section(s) resubmitted within a set period.

Bold underlined italic font has been used below to highlight the major differences between the revised 37 CFR 1.121 and the voluntary revised amendment format that applicants could use since February, 2003.

Note: The amendment practice for reissues and reexamination proceedings, except for drawings, has not changed.

REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE

I. Begin each section of an amendment document on a separate sheet:

Each section of an amendment document (e.g., Specification Amendments, Claim Amendments, Drawing Amendments, and Remarks) must begin on a separate sheet. Starting each separate section on a new page will facilitate the process of separately indexing and scanning each section of an amendment document for placement in an image file wrapper.

II. Two versions of amended part(s) no longer required:

37 CFR 1.121 has been revised to **no longer require** two versions (a clean version and a marked up version) of each replacement paragraph or section, or amended claim. Note, however, the requirements for a clean version and a marked up version for **substitute specifications** under 37 CFR 1.125 have been retained.

A) Amendments to the claims:

Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of a claim or submission of a new claim, **must include a complete listing** of all claims in the application. After each claim number in the listing, the status must be indicated in a parenthetical expression, and **the text of each pending claim** (with markings to show **current** changes) must be presented. The claims in the listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

- (1) The current status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled, not entered or withdrawn claims, must be given in a parenthetical expression following the claim number using only one of the following seven status identifiers: (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), **(previously presented) and (not entered)**. The text of all pending claims, **including withdrawn claims**, must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled **and not entered** claims must be indicated by only the claim number and status, without presenting the text of the claims.
- (2) The text of all claims **being currently amended** must be presented in the claim listing with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended claim must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for **deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[eroor]])**; and (2) if **strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]])**. **As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as)**. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Only claims of the status "currently amended," and "withdrawn" that are being amended, may include markings.
- (3) The text of pending claims **not being currently amended, including withdrawn claims**, must be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim text presented in clean version will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version except to omit markings that may have been present in the immediate prior version of the claims.

- (4) A claim being canceled must be listed in the claim listing with the status identifier "canceled"; the text of the claim must not be presented. Providing an instruction to cancel is optional.
- (5) Any claims added by amendment must be presented in the claim listing with the status identifier "(new)"; the text of the claim must not be underlined.
- (6) All of the claims in the claim listing must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled, or not entered, claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

Example of listing of claims (use of the word "claim" before the claim number is optional):

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A handle comprising an elongated wire.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The handle of claim 7 further comprising a plastic grip.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 9 wherein the handle is made of wood.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (not entered)

Claim 13 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

B) Amendments to the specification:

Amendments to the specification, including the abstract, must be made by presenting a replacement paragraph or section or abstract marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Newly added paragraphs or sections, including a new abstract (instead of a replacement abstract), must not be underlined. A replacement or new abstract must be submitted on a separate sheet, 37 CFR 1.72. If a substitute specification is being submitted to incorporate extensive amendments, both a clean version (which will be entered) and a marked up version must be submitted as per 37 CFR 1.125.

The changes in any replacement paragraph or section, or substitute specification must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[error]]); and (2) if strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as)

C) Amendments to drawing figures:

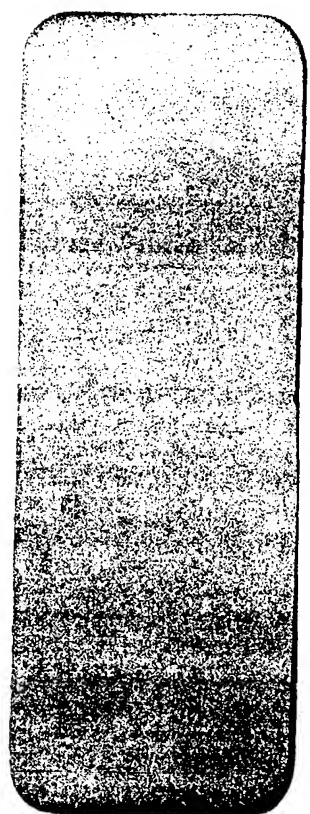
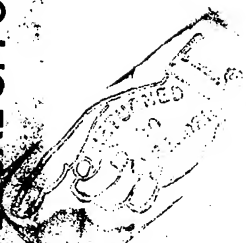
Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment, and may be accompanied by a marked-up copy of one or more of the figures being amended, with annotations. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as "Replacement Sheet" and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. Any marked-up (annotated) copy showing changes must be labeled "Annotated Marked-up Drawings" and accompany the replacement sheet in the amendment (e.g., as an appendix). The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as "amended." If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice set forth in this flyer should be directed to: Elizabeth Dougherty or Gena Jones, Legal Advisors, or Joe Narcavage, Senior Special Projects Examiner, Office of Patent Legal Administration, by e-mail to patentpractice@uspto.gov or by phone at (703) 305-1616.

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